



DSC@work

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NPS Document Gracing the Walls of Congressman's Office

Photos from the Cane River National Heritage Area are being proudly displayed in the Washington, D.C. office of Congressman Jim McCrery, Representative from the 4th District in Louisiana. Representative McCrery asked the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission for some artwork to display in honor of the Heritage Area. Nancy Morgan, Executive Director of the Commission, asked the Denver Service Center for a framed copy of the plan and additional photos.

The DSC team played an integral role in the heritage area's management plan, including the planning leadership and support, editing, designing, and producing the management plan for the Heritage Area and Executive Summary for the management plan document, issued September 2003. Ms. Morgan asked DSC to select the artwork and do the matting and framing. The completed package includes engraved plaques identifying the images and thanking Representative McCrery for his contribution to the Heritage Area. A copy of the framed Executive Summary cover is accompanied by Historic American Building Survey photos of the Magnolia Plantation quarters in the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and historic Front Street in Natchitoches.

Ms. Morgan presented the three finished pieces to Representative McCrery in his Washington, D.C. office February 10. The commission paid for the framing of these documents. □



Top Photo: Ruth Eitel, Visual Information Specialist, and Ann Van Huizen, Outdoor Recreation Planner, with the framed artwork at DSC before they were sent to Washington, D.C.

Bottom Photo: Rep. Jim McCrery and Executive Director Nancy Morgan

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

The first quarter of the fiscal year is behind us, and I'm very pleased with the progress, enthusiasm and the potential for success as we operate in our new business lines. Most transitions have their challenges, including ours, but they have been relatively few and far between and are being addressed.

I said during the realignment process this past year that tying the DSC awards program directly to office performance and stated goals is critical for each business line. Goals define management expectations for performance, and recognize greater accomplishments for our office and provide personal recognition for our collective efforts. In establishing the performance goals for the office we recognize that each business line is different and must be measured in different ways. For example, a 70% obligation rate for Design and Construction may exceed an established goal, while a 70% obligation in the Transportation business line would not meet the established goals because of the different ways the programs are administered.

The DSC management team has established consistent elements critical to our success on which to base the performance of the business lines or division: client satisfaction, production, and budget execution. These are common factors for all areas of the Denver Service Center, and each division will weigh and measure the goals differently, reflecting the varied programs and clients we support. Client satisfaction will be measured through personal feedback from our clients both internal and external to the office. Production will be measured through meeting established project milestones and completing assigned work. Budget execution is based on each division's ability to effectively manage their finances to accomplish their program within established parameters.

The goals established for each business line or division are intended to stretch and improve our performance, and are based on the accomplishments over the past two years, the expectations of our clients which range from parks, regional offices, Washington offices, and Departmental leadership. Division Chiefs will outline the established performance measures and expectations with you. I plan to set aside one percent of the personal services costs of the office in the FY2005 budget for our FY2004 accomplishments. The percentage of those funds that will be awarded is dependent on how successful we are in delivering quality projects, on time and within budget. Performance awards will be made in the first quarter of FY2005.

I have high expectations for what we will be able to accomplish this fiscal year and we have set in place a performance system that will recognize both outstanding group and individual performance. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the National Park Service.



Restoration of Sequoia Giant Forest Honored

The Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CCASLA) has awarded Sequoia National Park - restoration of the Giant Forest - their President's Award of Excellence. The National Park Service (NPS) Denver Service Center (DSC) was responsible for the planning and design of this project in conjunction with the park, NPS Pacific West Regional Office, and Harpers Ferry Center.



New parking and trail system allows the General Sherman Tree to be experienced in its full majesty. NPS photo by Steve Collector.

The purpose of this project was to restore the ecological health of the Giant Forest sequoia grove and meadow within the national park while providing positive visitor experiences. This restoration effort has established a precedent for removing development from key national park landscapes.

Over 280 buildings and 1,000,000 square feet of paving were removed from the sequoia grove. Visitor lodging for overnight accommodations were relocated away from the Giant Forest. This project also improved the efficiency of park operations by removing and/or replacing deteriorated utilities, stabilizing historic buildings, and simplifying the snow removal process. A redesigned parking and transportation system was created, along with an improved self-guided trail system, and an interpretive museum. The Giant Forest Museum is now housed in the renovated historic market - originally built in 1928 - and contains exhibits and education materials on the ecology of the sequoia groves.

This project has set a new standard for land stewardship as it provides for visitor access to a unique resource while protecting sensitive areas from overuse. In addition to the President's Award, CCASLA also awarded this project with a Land Stewardship Designation. A jury from the Oregon Chapter of ASLA selected the project for the Colorado Chapter distinction. □

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site officially opened January 24, 2004, with a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new visitor center and battlefield overlook and trail. The Denver Service Center, along with the park and region, have played an integral role in the development of this site, from the general management plan completed in 1998, the development concept plan, design charrettes, Development Advisory Board review, and finally through a design-build contract awarded for \$1.7 million for the visitor center and associated facilities.

The visitor center will provide services at this nationally significant site, the first major battle in the war between the United States and Mexico. This war, which arose from territorial disputes between the two countries, established the Rio Grande as the boundary between the nations and resulted in the transfer of a huge amount of territory from Mexico to the United States. Palo Alto is the only unit in the National Park System specifically directed to preserve and interpret the resources related to the war between the United States and Mexico.

The 5,000-square-foot visitor center includes exhibits, an audio-visual room, classroom, sales area, a three-quarter-mile trail with wayside exhibits, and an overlook providing a view of the primary positions of the 1846 Battle of Palo Alto. The exhibits are presented in a comprehensive manner incorporating the perspectives from both the United States and Mexico, and explores the cultural heritage that has evolved since the conflict.

The visitor center project has been a cooperative venture involving the Brownsville community with specific contributions provided by the City of Brownsville, Palo Alto National Park Committee, The Houston Endowment, Brownsville Community Foundation, Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation & Brownsville Economic Development Council, and support from numerous individual members of the community. □



Entrance to visitor center



Battlefield overlook



Ribbon cutting ceremony, with Texas Governor Rick Perry, community leaders, and Park officials

DSC's Planning Division Assists Yosemite National Park with Merced River Management Plan

Three members of DSC's planning division are assisting Yosemite National Park science, planning, and management staffs respond to the recent 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals finding on the litigated *Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan*.

In late October 2003, the Appeals court presented its ruling on the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*. The court upheld the plan's validity regarding the sufficiency of data used in its development, and the park's fulfillment of its obligation to cooperate with water pollution agencies, but it reversed two decisions of the U.S. District Court. Through one of these decisions, the park must now adopt specific measures on user capacities, through the plan's Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework, to conform to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act user capacity requirement. The court found that the framework was acceptable, but Yosemite should have completed the implementation portion of the process as part of the river plan.

The park is now continuing the implementation steps of this VERP process, including identifying indica-

tors and standards, and establishing monitoring protocols. A workshop was conducted as part of this process December 10-12, 2003, to determine how best to move the VERP process forward, with DSC planners Marilyn Hof, Kerri Cahill, and Linda Dahl facilitating the workshop.

Based on existing park data, including the recently completed research studies and on-going monitoring and management strategies, the workshop group identified indicators and standards that would represent the Merced River's outstandingly remarkable values for resources and for visitor experience. It also described preliminary standards for the indicators.

Monitoring over the next use season will begin the process of testing the standards and adjusting management as needed to maintain resource and visitor experience quality.

The park and Department of Interior solicitors will soon present to the court the findings from the workshop as part of the park's user capacity management program report and implementation plans. □



The Merced River is a Wild and Scenic River which cuts a course from glacial peaks through mountain lakes, alpine and subalpine meadows, waterfalls, and gorges, and supports rich and diverse riparian habitat in Yosemite National Park. NPS Photo

Employee News

New Employees

Kate Hammond has joined DSC as a Project Manager with the Design and Construction Division. Kate comes to DSC after six years working as an interpretive planner and project manager for Harpers Ferry Center, duty stationed at DSC. Kate has 12 years of experience working at a variety of parks including Denali National Park, Bandelier National Monument, Amistad National Recreation Area, Walden Pond State Park, and several national parks in Argentina. She has also performed extensive consulting work on park management in several countries in Latin America.

Cam Hugie has joined DSC as a Project Manager with the Transportation Division, Branch of Park Roads. He will be managing road projects in the Intermountain Region. Cam has spent most of his career with the NPS, starting on the Eastern Team Branch of Planning in 1974. Since then he has worked in the Construction and Design branches of the Western Team, Olympic National Park, Rocky Mountain Region, and most recently at Grand Teton National Park.

Sandra (Sandy) Lintz has joined DSC as a Contract Specialist with the Contracting Services Division. She will manage contracts and task orders for park projects in the Northeast/National Capital Region. Sandy comes to NPS from the Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Central Region, Acquisition and Grants Branch based at the Denver Federal Center, where she was a Contracting Officer for just over four years. She has 19 years of federal service, 14 of those with the Department of Defense. All of her government experience is in contract management, some of it on the technical side as a Quality Assurance Specialist, and some of it on the administrative side as a Procurement Analyst and Contract Specialist. Sandy is currently active in the leadership of the Denver Chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

Mary Owens has joined the National Park Service's Administrative Program Center in Denver as a supervisory human resources specialist. Mary will support the employees of the Denver Service Center in her new position. Mary has worked for the past 14 years

in personnel at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. She previously worked as a purchasing agent for the Mine, Safety and Health Administration.

Steve Townsley has joined DSC as a Project Manager with the Design and Construction Division. He will be managing projects for parks in the Northeast/National Capital Region. Steve comes to NPS from Qwest Communications Corporate Real Estate - Design and Construction based in Denver, CO, where he was Regional Project Manager for the northeast region of the U.S. providing telecommunications infrastructure facilities. Steve is a civil/structural engineer with 21 years of design and construction experience, and extensive experience with dam safety and water resources projects across the country. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado, and brings 12 years of private A/E consulting experience and more than 5 years of federal service with the Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation.

Kim Uhler has joined the National Park Service's Administrative Program Center in Denver as a human resources program assistant. Kim will support the employees of DSC in her new position. Kim is joining NPS from the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. She previously worked for NPS at the Mojave National Preserve as a fire program assistant. □

Transitions

Kristie Franzmann, Jan Burton, and Mark Tabor have become Project Managers with the Transportation Division. Kristie, in the Park Roads Branch, is managing projects in the northeast; Jan, in the Alternative Transportation Program (ATP) Branch, is managing projects in the west; and Mark, in the ATP Branch, is managing projects in the central part of the country.

Jodie Petersen is now a Project Manager in the Design and Construction Division, and is managing projects primarily in the Northeast.

Carol Simpson has been selected as the permanent librarian for DSC, Information Management Division. □

DC Corner

In recognition of her many accomplishments in support of the mission of the National Park Service, Sue Masica, NPS Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands, was granted the Meritorious Service Award of the Department of the Interior. Sue was presented the award by NPS Director Fran Mainella during a ceremony February 4, 2004, in Washington D.C. She was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments and leadership during her tenure as NPS Associate Director of Administration, and her continued success in her current position in furthering the Presidential commitment to address the deferred maintenance backlog. □



NPS Director Mainella with Sue Masica

DSC in the News

Preservation Online, the online magazine of the National Trust for Historical Preservation, highlights the opening of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Site at

http://www.nationaltrust.org/magazine/archives/arc_news/012804.htm.

DSC Assistant Director for Partnerships Linda Moery is profiled in the latest edition of the American Society of Landscape Architects online publication, *LAND Online*, at

<http://www.asla.org/land>. □

Around the Water Cooler

Employee Appreciation Day March 2

NPS offices at the Alameda and Academy Place locations will once again be filled with balloons, flowers, candy, and trinkets on Tuesday, March 2, for the celebration of Employee Appreciation Day.

Sponsored by the Employees' Association, this day has been patterned after the carnation sales human resources held a few times in the early 1990's to thank fellow employees for their assistance and teamwork during the year. Approximately 13-15 association volunteers have been working towards the Appreciation day for the last month by taking orders and tagging items.

This event is open to everyone working for the National Park Service in Denver, and to all workers in the Alameda Building, including BLM employees, contractors, guards, and other support staff. Last year there were more than 2,000 balloons and 1,400 carnations delivered on Appreciation Day. □

2004

March						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

March ...

1	▪ Brown Bag Lunch (11:30 - Room 283)
2	▪ Employee Appreciation Day
4 – 5	▪ A/E Orientation Training (Rooms 10A & B)
9 – 10	▪ Pacific West Work Session (Denver)
13 – 18	▪ Association of Partners for Public Lands Annual Conference - Wenk (St. Louis)
26	▪ PPFL Congressional briefings for Director Mainella - Wenk (Washington, D.C.)
30-31	▪ NPS Superintendent's Council - Wenk (Washington, D.C.)

April ...

4	▪ Denver Federal Executive Board Meeting - Wenk
8	▪ Federal Green Building Council Meeting - Wenk (Washington, D.C.)
12	▪ Brown Bag Lunch (11:30 - Room 283)
20 – 22	▪ DAB (Alexandria, VA)



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

<http://www.nps.gov/dsc>
<http://inside.nps.gov/programs/dsc>

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